

This firm continued until assumed the Editorship of one of the Council who when the Royal Commission on the exercise of French appointed Governor of the



, K.C., M.L.C.

was elected to the Legislature, and was appointed to Cabinet Minister. He was formed for the purpose of a number of more than average thought.

HONOURABLE SIR JOHN CHALKER CROSBIE, K.B.E.

OF the several men who have distinguished themselves in the business and public life of the Colony of Newfoundland, few are there who can lay claim to such brilliant achievement as the subject of this short and possibly more or less incomplete biographical sketch—Honourable Sir John Chalker Crosbie, K.B.E.

Though still in the prime of life Sir John has, through energy, ability, perseverance and all the praiseworthy attributes which make for success, earned for himself a reputation, and carved out a career which many who are his seniors might envy. Sir John was not "born



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to the purple," so to speak, and though a man of excellent lineage, possessed none of the adjuncts, inherited or acquired, which might in time help him materially to distinction, and thus it is, that he so well deserves the preference and emoluments which he to-day enjoys. There are men who through centralization of thought, and effort, achieve success in a particular department of endeavour, but not many to whom are given the talent or skill to comprehend, much less master the complex in any particular line of thought or action. Sir John Crosbie had not long entered the business world before his contemporaries noted in him that versatility which is the hall mark of ability of a superior order. This marked feature is not alone a trait in his busi-

ness career, it has shone forth possibly with greater brilliancy in his endeavours as Parliamentarian, Statesman and Executive Officer; for it is well known that Sir John is fully conversant with the requirements of most of the country's public departments, and his advice and assistance are highly assessed in Executive deliberations, when questions of more than ordinary moment are at issue. Small wonder is there then, that a gentleman of such marked attainments occupies a position of prominence in the commercial and official life of the Colony. Though not a martinet in the strict and narrow sense of the word, Sir John has small regard for the laggard, the irregular or the inept, and exacts from his subordinates in office, efficiency, industry, sobriety and loyalty, and that capacity for work and application, which particularly marks his own official life. Withal Sir John is the possessor of many kindly and humane traits, often shows the regard he has for industrious and faithful employees and no reasonable concession or request is likely to be met by curt refusal or unconsidered unkind negative. Socially the man is noted for his goodfellowship, affability and democratic spirit, and these characteristics tend to ever increasing popularity.

Sir John Crosbie was born at Brigus, Newfoundland, on September 11th, 1876. He is the son of the late George Graham Crosbie, of Dumfries, Scotland, and Martha Ellen Chalker, of Dartmouth, England. He was educated at the Methodist College, St. John's, and at a comparatively early age engaged in the business life of the country. Imbued with the worthy ambition to succeed, he was noted for his industry and ability and before his business career when he founded the firm of Crosbie and Co. (of which he is now sole owner) in 1900, and became its President in 1903, under his skillful, vigilant and careful supervision, the house ranks with the most successful business establishments of Newfoundland. Is one of the largest fish exporting concerns, is largely interested in shipping, steam and sail, and its steamers the "Fogota," "Susu" and "Sagona" successfully prosecuted the seal fishery. Sir John's popularity has been well evidenced in his career as a legislator. He was first returned to Parliament for the District of Bay de Verde in 1908, was re-elected in 1909, and appointed to the Executive, was a Minister without Portfolio until 1917 and was acting Prime Minister in 1918. He had a distinguished career during the period of the Great War. Was Minister of Shipping in 1917, Chairman of the Tonnage Committee and of the Executive Committee, and was re-elected to the Legislature for the District of Port de Grave in 1919 and for the important and populous District of St. John's West in 1924, and was awarded the portfolio of Finance and Customs on the formation of the Executive of the present Government led by Premier Monroe. It would seem to be superfluous to make mention of the splendid work done by Sir John in connection with the Customs' Department, for the

press of the country as well given it deserved publicity. In office, he found disorganization to his acumen and knowledge of government where chaos reigned. In short he effected a complete re-organization of the Colony's finances thousands permanently lost to them. His ability, zeal and solicitude were devoted to the public weal and he has the gratitude of all people who deserved the Knightly honour conferred on him by his Sovereign and his people. He will wish him many years to live and prosper. He is the father of a daughter of Josiah Manuel, and a member of the Bally Haly, Loyal Orange Association.

IN the political, social and economic history of Newfoundland there is no name more prominent than that of the Shea family of St. John's. The family, that has associated with the highest rank in some of the most important events which marked the deviation of the colony from arbitrary legislative powers and the full effulgence of the colonial autonomy, down to the name of Newfoundland and the sister states comprising the group, is proposing the present day British Empire. In a biographical sketch by limitations of space, it will be difficult to do justice to the activeness with the several worthies whose talents and attainments have secured them an international repute, and whose colonial history place them in a prominent position. However be safe to assert that the character, all the endowment, genius, all the shining talents were centered in and were personified in Sir Ambrose Shea; and in the history of the other gentlemen

greater brilliancy in his Executive Officer; for it is in accordance with the requirements of the office and his advice and asserations, when questions of Small wonder is there that he occupies a position of importance in the Colony. Though not a word of the word, Sir John has been an inept, and exacts from himself, sobriety and loyalty, which particularly marks him as the possessor of many kindly qualities. He has for industrious and diligent men or request is likely to be both good and negative. Socially he is affable and democratic and his increasing popularity.

press of the country as well as the international newsagencies, have given it deserved publicity. When Sir John took up the duties of his office, he found disorganization and irregularity on all sides, but thanks to his acumen and knowledge of affairs, he soon systemized the Department where chaos reigned. He early established order and efficiency; in short he effected a complete metamorphosis and recovered for the Colony's finances thousands of dollars that otherwise would have been permanently lost to them. This in itself is a testimony to the executive ability, zeal and solicitude which Sir John possesses in matters appertaining to the public weal and should, as it no doubt has, earned for him the gratitude of all patriotic Newfoundlanders. Sir John well deserved the Knightly honour so gracefully and graciously bestowed on him by his Sovereign and his legion of friends both at home and abroad will wish him many years to wear them. He is married to Mitchie A., daughter of Josiah Manuel, Esq., the well known and esteemed Merchant of Exploits. Sir John is a member in good standing of the following Clubs and Societies, viz.: Masonic, St. Andrew's, Old Colony, Bally Haly, Loyal Orange Association and Knights of Pythias.